

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A zoom lens system having an exit pupil far away from the image plane, zoom ratio of about three, and in particular having compactness and high optical performance includes, in order from an object, a first lens group having negative refractive power, an aperture stop, a second lens group having positive refractive power, and a third lens group having positive refractive power. When zooming from a wide-angle end state to a telephoto end state, the first and second lens groups are moved and the third lens group is fixed such that a distance between the first lens group and the second lens group varies, and a distance between the second lens group and the third lens group increases. The second lens group is composed of four lenses or less and includes a diffractive optical surface formed on a lens surface except the most object side lens surface.